Education of Children in Out of Home Care

Secretary's Council on Child Welfare

June 20, 2012

Purpose

- *To understand the educational outcomes of children who have been in out of home care.*

- *To create a partnership with DPI for further information gathering and joint research.*

Methodology

Data Set

- Pilot data exchange initiated between DCF and DPI in spring 2012.
- Data set included all children in out of home care between the ages of 7 and 18
  - Removed in the 2008-2009 school year
  - In OHC for at least 3 months

Technical Success

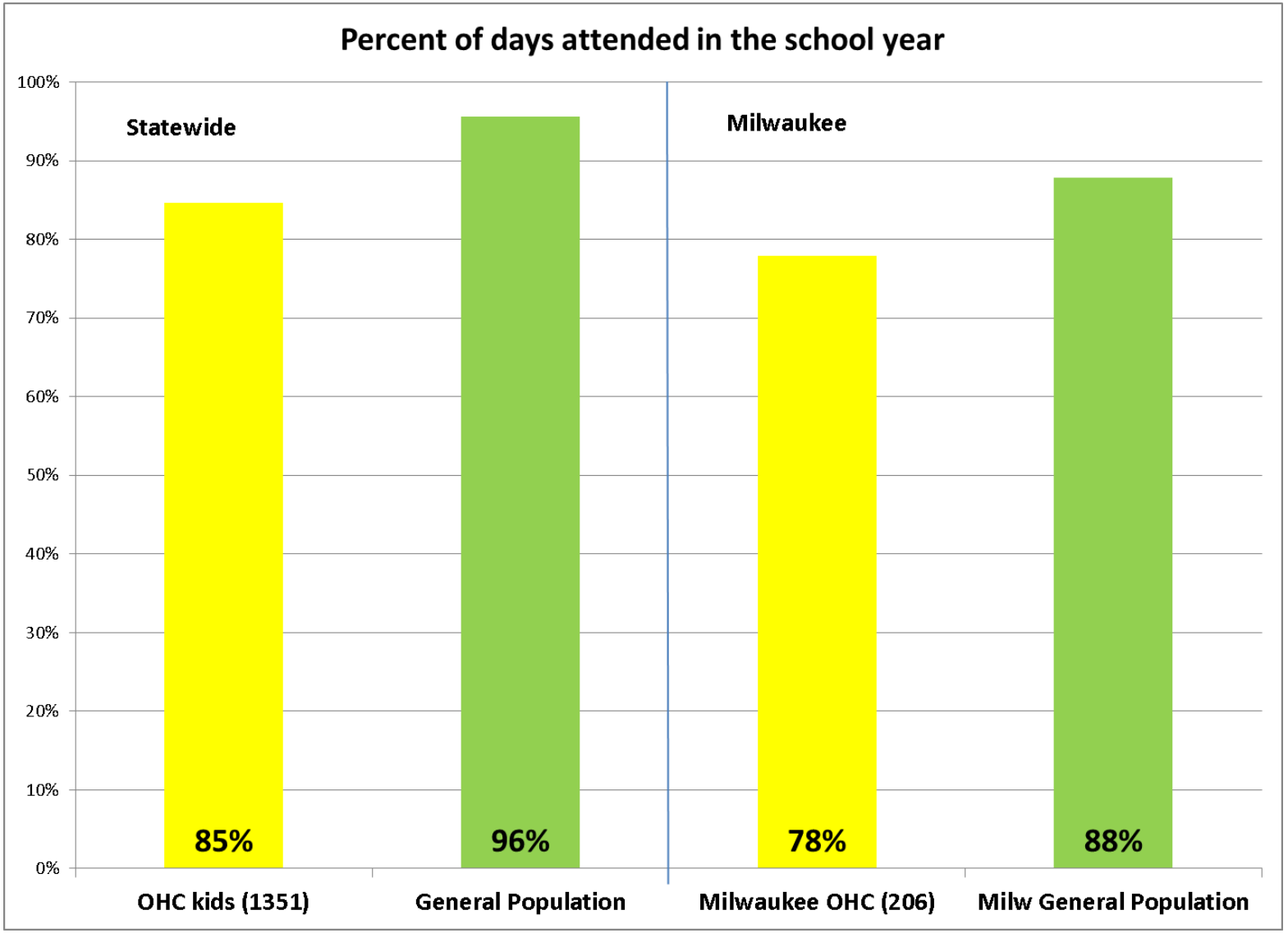
- This is the first time DPI and DCF have directly linked educational and out of home care data.
- The children in out of home matched the DPI database with a 93% match rate.
- The process was set up to facilitate more data exchanges in the future.

Preliminary Analysis

Children in out of home care have worse educational outcomes than the general school age population.

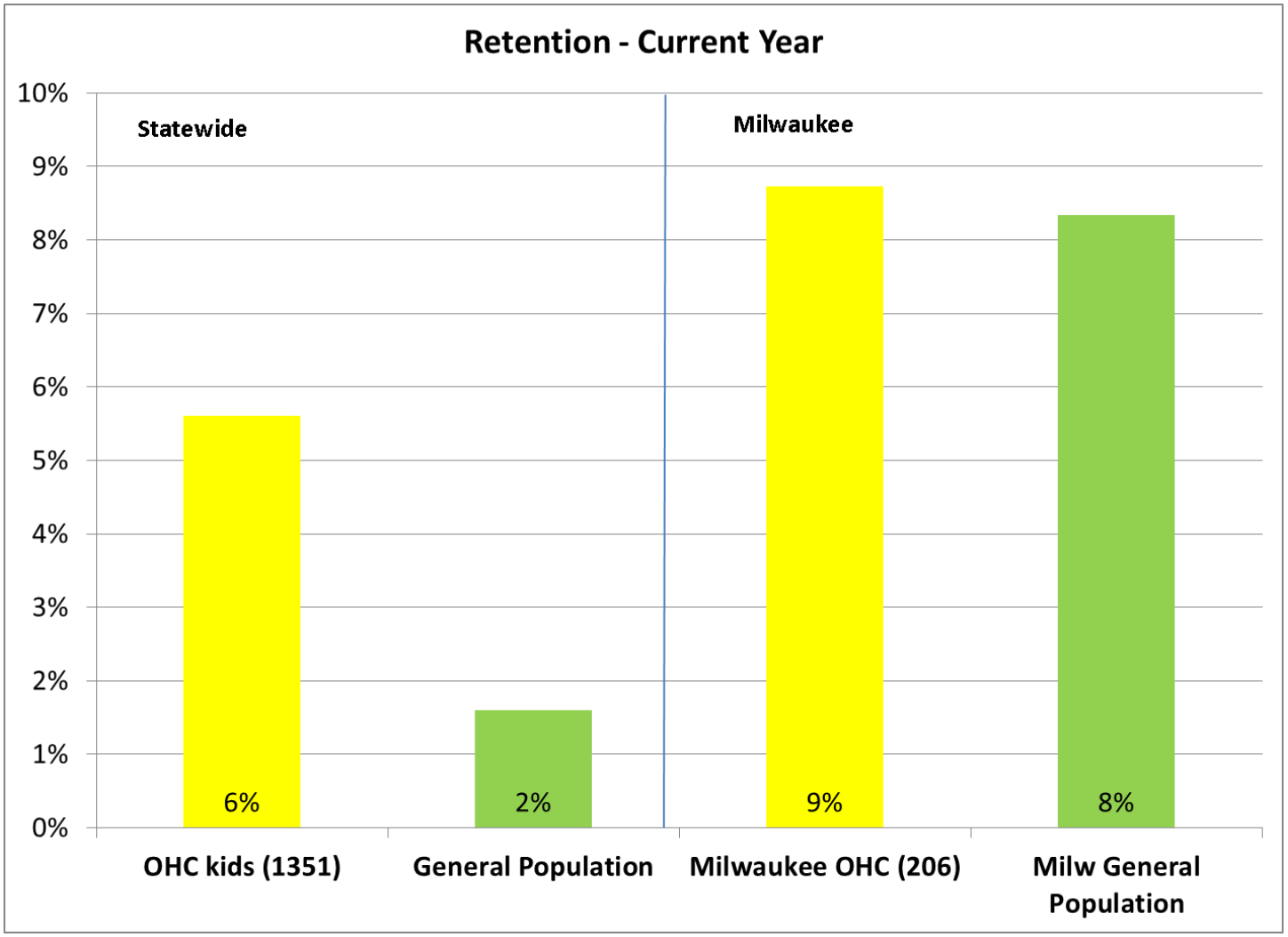
Note:
All information in this report is preliminary, pending further research in upcoming months.

Attendance


Percent of days attended in the school year
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Statewide
Milwaukee
85%
96%
78%
88%
OHC kids (1351)
General Population
Milwaukee OHC (206)
Milw General Population

Retention

The number of children at the end of the year who did not progress to the next grade



School Mobility

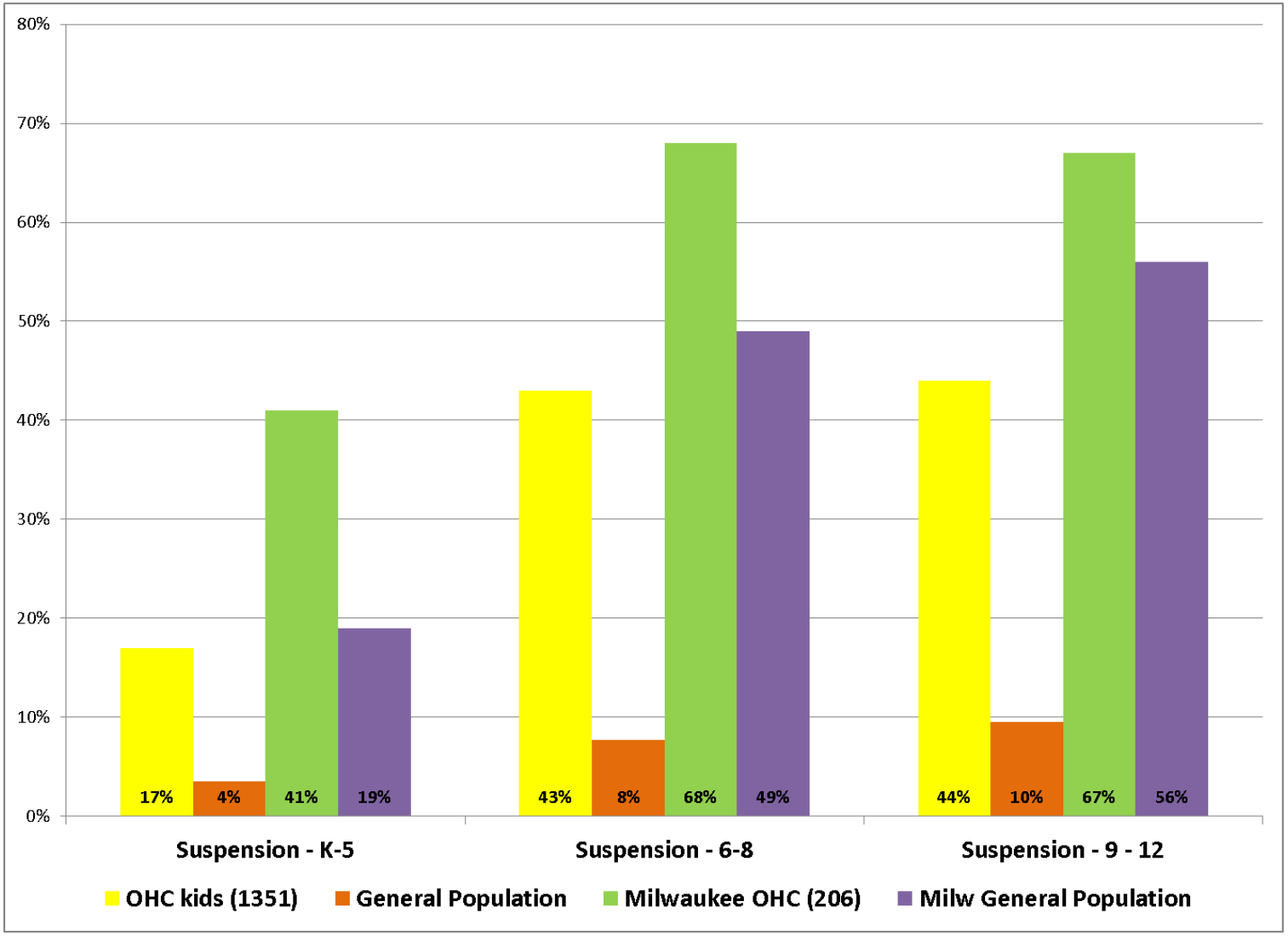
Children served by more than one school in a single school year:

- OHC kids 44%
- Milwaukee OHC kids 38%

Comparable data points not yet available.

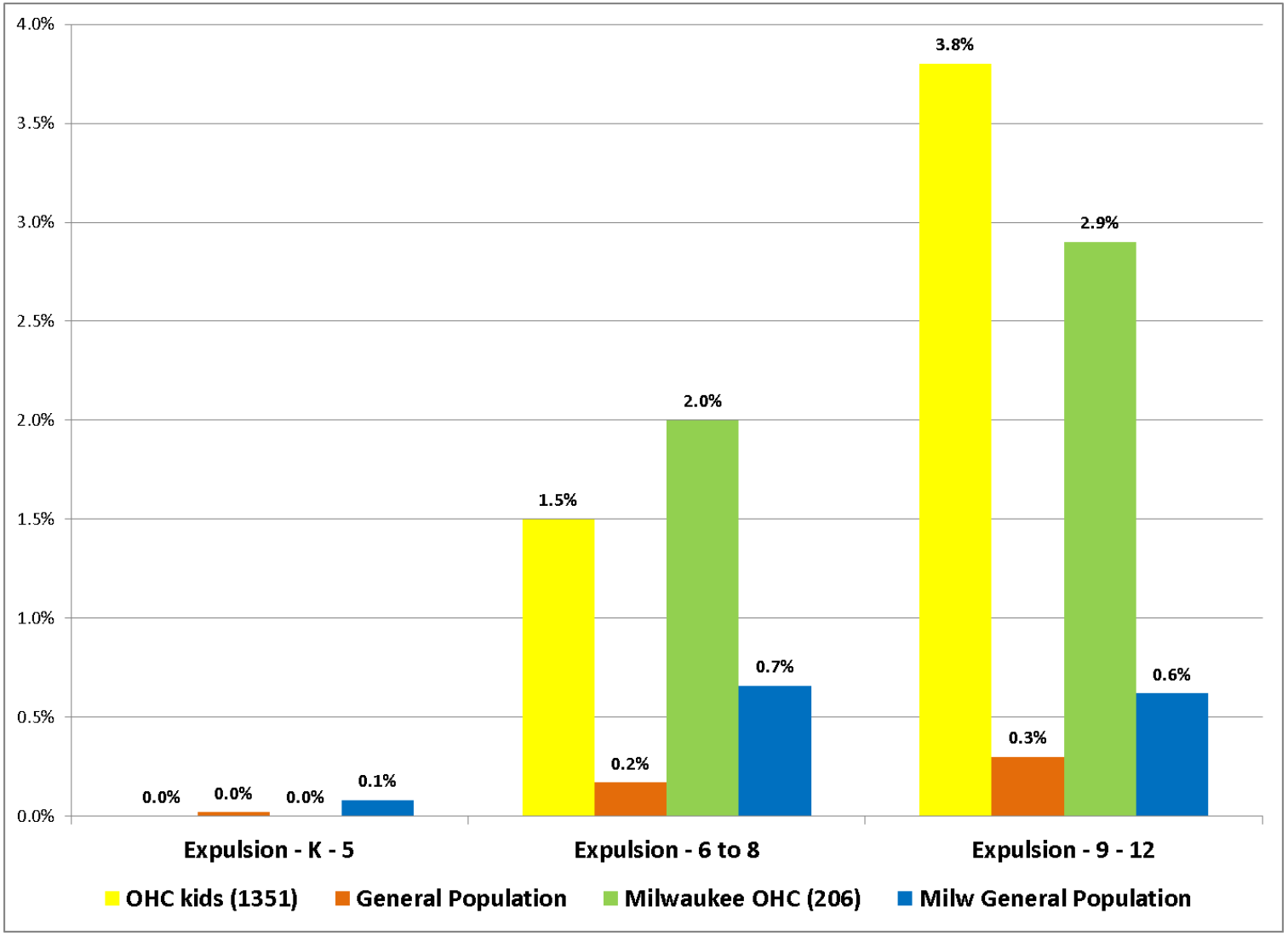
Suspension

Number of children who were suspended in the school year



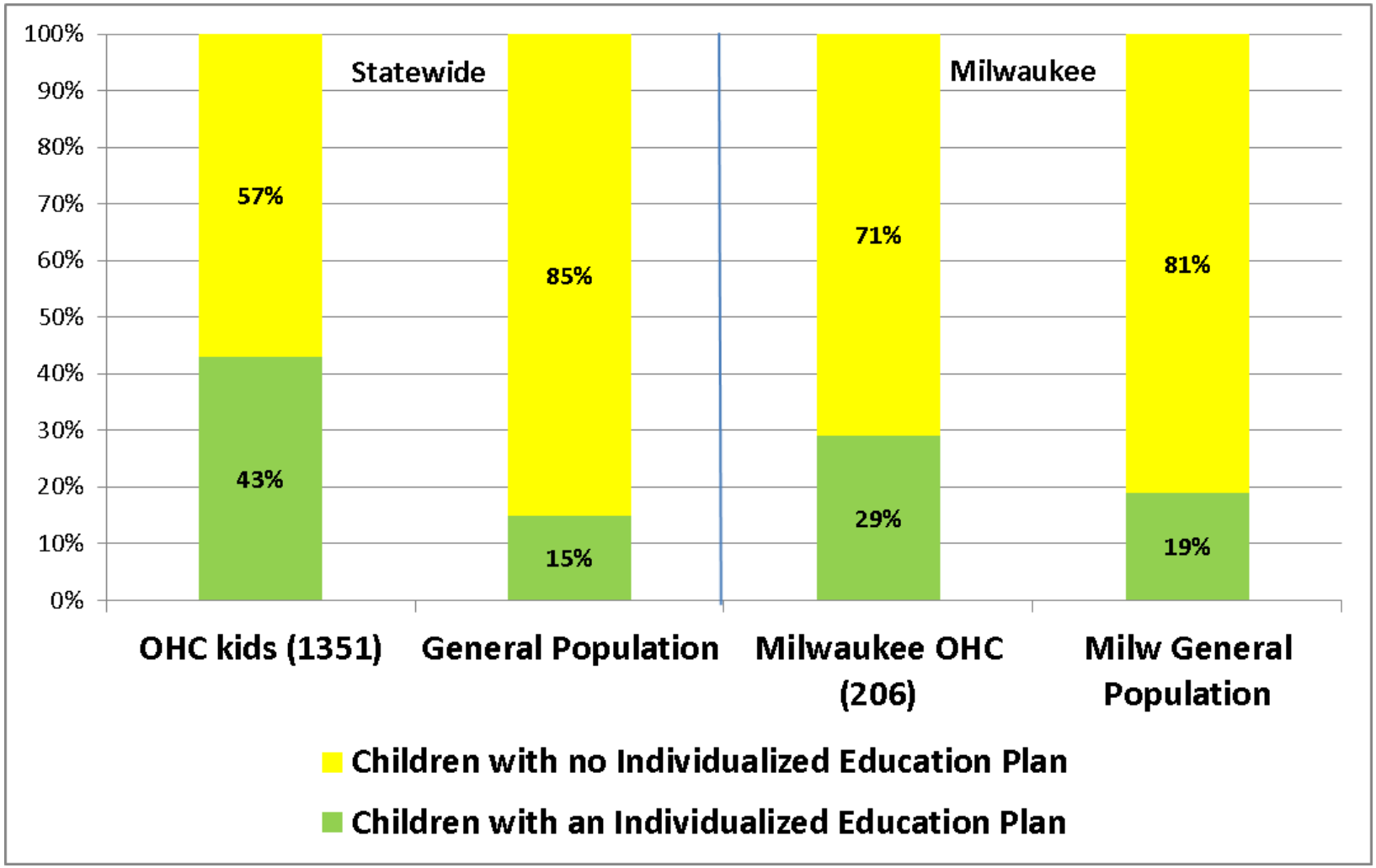
Expulsion

Percent of children expelled from school

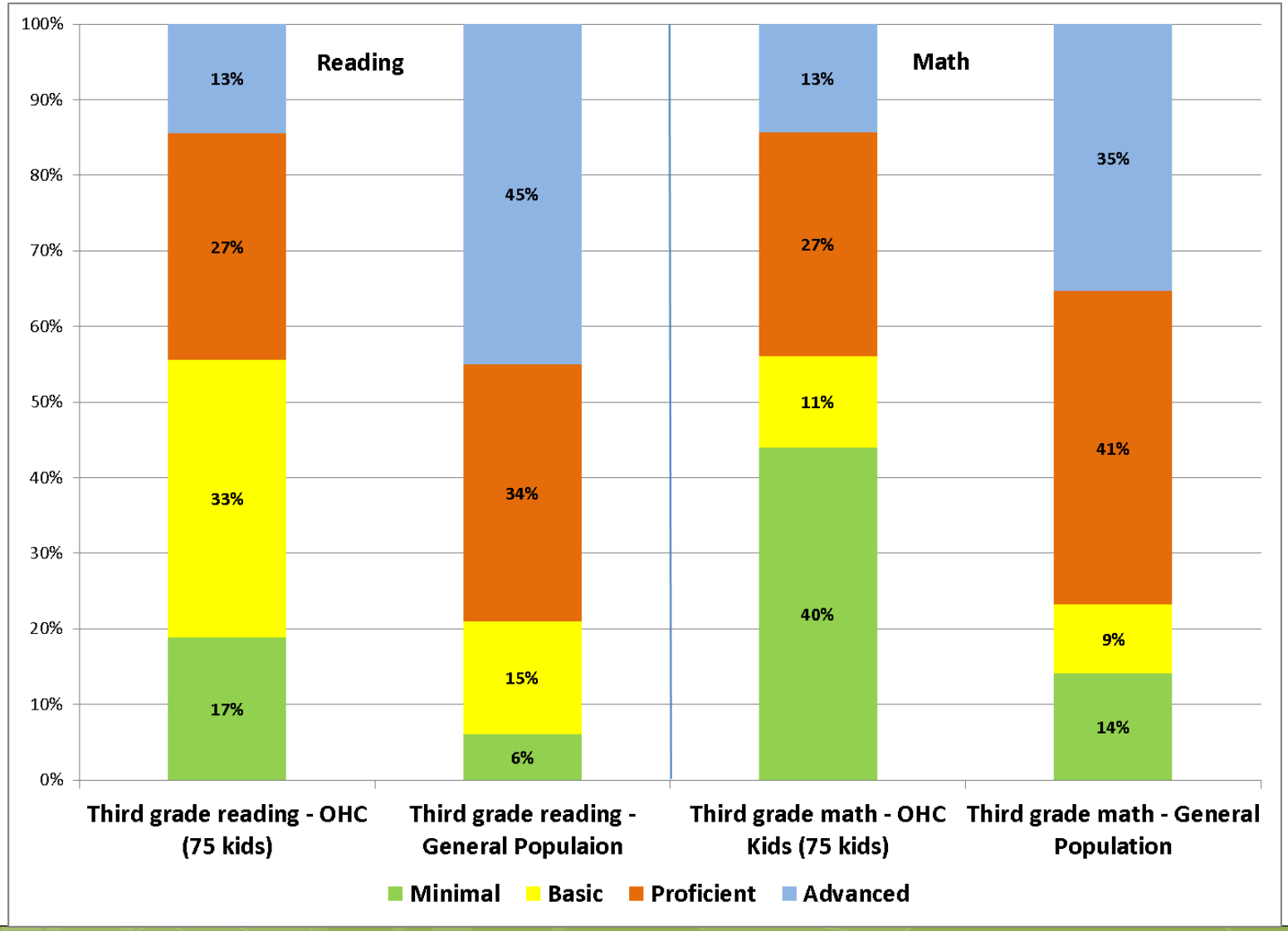


Demographic Difference

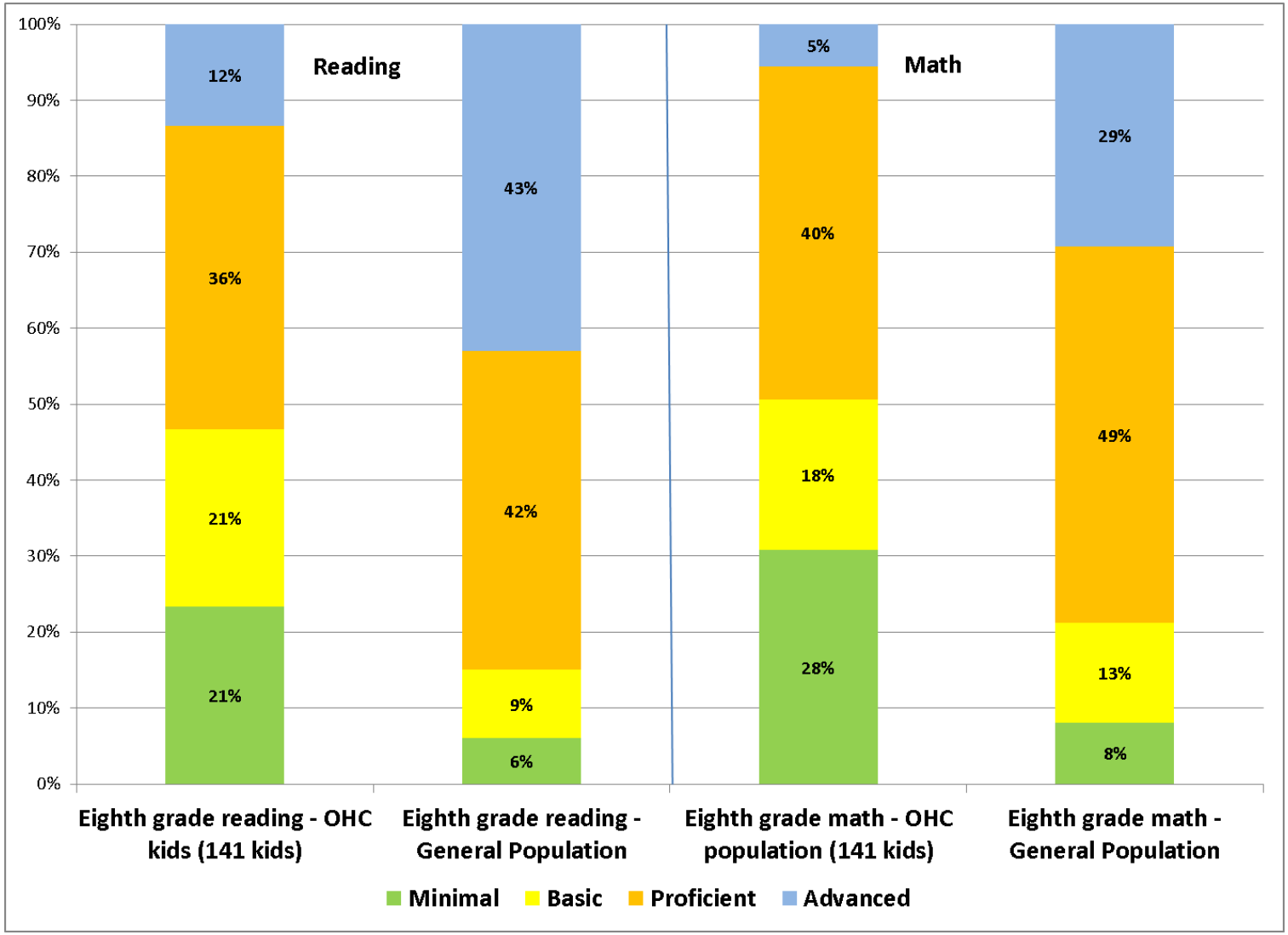
Children with and without Individualized Education Plans



Third Grade Test Scores

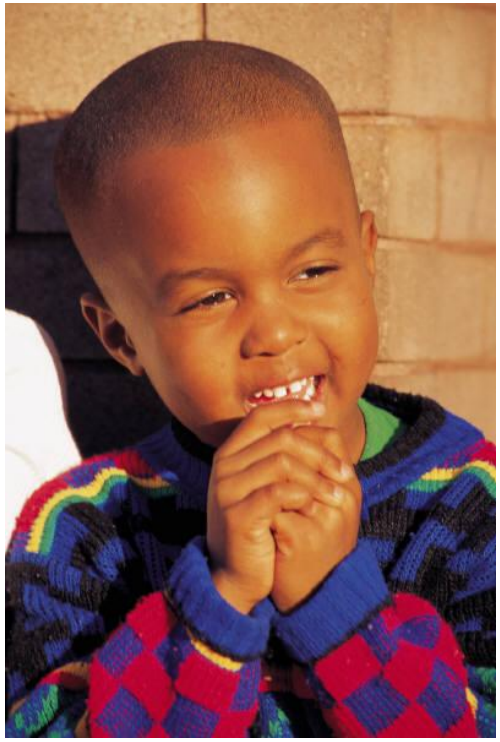


Eighth Grade Test Scores



What does it mean?

- Children in out of home care have significant unmet educational needs.
- More analysis is necessary.



Next Steps

- **DCF and DPI have submitted a grant proposal which would fund the following activities:**
  - Further analysis of this and other more detailed data sets;
  - A mechanism for social workers to have direct access to children's educational status;
  - A protocol for better communication between school and social work staff; and
  - Development of policies, procedures, and practices to increase the educational success of children and youth in OHC.

Contact Information:

Wendy Henderson, Performance Analyst,
Division of Safety and Permanence
wendy.henderson@wisconsin.gov

John Elliott, Deputy Administrator,
Division of Safety and Permanence
John.elliott@wisconsin.gov